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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,024	HOOPER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 10/04/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18-25,29-34 and 36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

- Attachment(s)**
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marc Berger (Reg. 44029) on 11/01/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. – 17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium containing instructions which when executed implement a system for retrieval of digital assets having metadata associated therewith, the medium comprising:

instructions for an interface (i) for generating a plurality of metadata constraints, wherein each metadata constraint sets at least one value for a metadata property, (ii) for modifying property values associated with the generated metadata constraints, and (iii) for selectively activating or de-activating the generated metadata constraints by ~~respectively checking or un-checking checkboxes corresponding to the constraints~~ means of activation controls, wherein each metadata constraint can be independently activated or de-activated without affecting the activation status and settings of the other metadata constraints and (iv) for selectively locking or unlocking the generated metadata constraints by means of lock controls, wherein each constraint can be

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independently locked or unlocked without affecting the lock status and settings of other metadata constraints;

~~a constraint lock processor for locking at least one metadata constraint so as to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated or de-activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified;~~

instructions for a query processor for applying the activated metadata constraints in accordance with their respective property values; and

instructions for a display interface for viewing a result of said query processor;

instructions for an activation processor (v) for activating a metadata constraint when a property value associated within the metadata constraint is modified, and (vi) for re-applying the activated metadata constraints within the query processor whenever the interface changes an activation status of a metadata constraint and whenever the interface changes the property value of a metadata constraint; and

instructions for a constraint lock processor (vii) for causing unlocked and activated metadata constraints to become de-activated when other metadata constraints are activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified, and (viii) for causing locked and activated metadata constraints to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified.

26. - 28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended) A method for retrieving digital assets having metadata associated therewith, comprising:

generating a plurality of metadata constraints, wherein each metadata constraint sets one or more values for a metadata property;

selectively activating or de-activating the generated metadata constraints by ~~respectively checking or un-checking checkboxes corresponding to the constraints~~ means of activation controls, wherein each metadata constraint can be independently activated or de-activated without affecting the activation status and settings of the other metadata constraints;

modifying at least one property value associated with at least one generated metadata constraint;

selectively locking or unlocking the generated metadata constraints by means of lock controls, wherein each metadata constraint can be independently locked or unlocked without affecting the lock status and settings of the other metadata constraints ~~locking at least one metadata constraint so as to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated or de-activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified;~~

activating a metadata constraint when a property value associated within the metadata constraint is modified;

causing unlocked and activated metadata constraints to become de-activated when other metadata constraints are activated, and when other metadata constraint property values are modified;

causing locked and activated metadata constraints to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated, and when other metadata constraint property values are modified;

applying the activated metadata constraints in accordance with their respective property values; and

viewing a result of said applying; and
re-applying the activated metadata constraints whenever said selectively
activating changes an activation status of a metadata constraint and whenever said
modifying modifies a property value of a metadata constraint.

35. (canceled)

37. – 51. (canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 18-25, 29-34, and 36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 18 and 29, when considered as a whole, are allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically, prior art of record fail to clearly teach or fairly suggest the limitations "instructions for an activation processor (v) for activating a metadata constraint when a property value associated within the metadata constraint is modified, and (vi) for re-applying the activated metadata constraints within the query processor whenever the interface changes an activation status of a metadata constraint and whenever the interface changes the property value of a metadata constraint; and instructions for a constraint lock processor (vii) for causing unlocked and activated metadata constraints to become de-activated when other metadata constraints are activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified, and (viii) for causing locked and activated metadata constraints to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified" The dependent claims further add limitations to the allowable subject matter of the corresponding independent claims; thus are also allowable.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1033. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday: 7:30 - 5:00, off on alternating Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T.T
11/01/2007

Lien Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2179


WEILUN LO

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER